

Transit for Connecticut
Helping People, the Economy and the Environment

Transportation Committee Public Hearing
February 4, 2013

In support of:

SB 225 AAC Appropriations for the Dial-A-Ride Program
SB 646 AA Restoring Funding for the State Matching Grant Program for Demand-Responsive
Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities
HB 6164 AAC Protecting the Revenue Deposited in the Special Transportation Fund
HB 6069 AA Limiting Expenditures from the Special Transportation Fund from Being Used for
General Fund Purposes
HB5320 AAC the Revenue Raised from Public Transportation Fares

Dear Sen. Maynard, Rep. Guerrero and Members of the Transportation Committee,

On behalf of Transit for Connecticut, a statewide coalition of 33 business, social service, environmental, planning transportation and civic organizations dedicated to increasing awareness of the benefits of bus transit and advocating for increased investment in transit service, I urge you to support SB 225 AAC Appropriations for the Dial-A-Ride Program and SB 646 AA Restoring Funding for the State Matching Grant Program for Demand-Responsive Transportation Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities.

An integral part of transportation service for Connecticut residents is the Dial-A-Ride Program provided by municipalities with the help of matching grants from the state. The Dial-A-Ride Program is essential to the quality of life for many senior citizens and persons with disabilities. As the population ages and seniors want to stay in their homes, it is necessary that funding for the program be continued. Please support SB 225 and SB 646.

In addition, I ask you to support HB 6164, HB 6069 and HB 5320.

Billions of dollars are needed to ensure that Connecticut's transportation infrastructure is properly maintained and operating efficiently. Improvement and expansion of our highways and transit network is essential to Connecticut's economic future. With federal funding stagnating, if not declining, Connecticut will have to carry a heavier share of the investment burden. It is important the state's Special Transportation fund receive and retain all funding generated by use of transit service. Establishing a "lock box" for Special Transportation Fund revenue and a guarantee that STF revenues be used only for state transportation projects will enhance the development of a strong foundation for future allocation of transportation funds. Please support HB 6164, HB 6069 and HB 5320.

Thank you for your consideration

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